



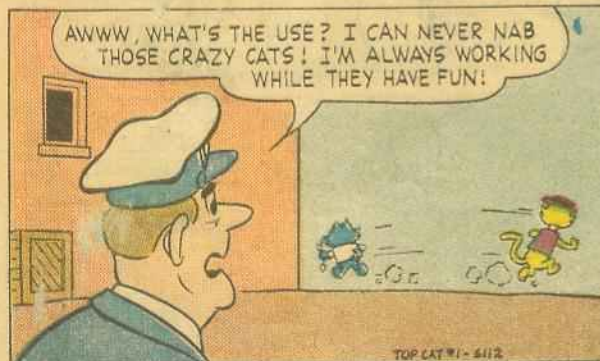
DEC. - FEB.

Top Cat



TOP CAT

TOO MANY STOWAWAYS



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SHORTLY...

TO ORDER! WHO'S HERE?

OKAY, YOU GUYS. THE MEETING WILL COME

BENNY THE BALL PRESENT!

BRAIN IN ATTENDANCE!

FANCY-FANCY PRESENT IN ALL MY SPLENDOR!

CHOO CHOO ON DECK, T.C.!



HMMM! SPOOK ISN'T HERE! WELL, WE'LL START WITHOUT HIM!

HOW CAN WE START WITHOUT HIM? HE'S OUR TREASURER!



RIGHT, CHOO CHOO! AND THAT'S THE MOST UNIMPORTANT OFFICE IN THE GANG, BECAUSE THERE'S NEVER ANYTHING *IN* THE TREASURY!

OH, YEAH! I, LIKE, FORGOT!



I PROPOSE WE START PLANNING OUR ANNUAL VACATION TO A WARM SPOT, SINCE THE WEATHER IS TURNING COOL!

I SUPPOSE IT'LL BE AT GROGAN'S STEAM BATHS LIKE EVERY OTHER YEAR!



NOPE. THIS YEAR I THINK WE SHOULD VACATION AT A MORE EXOTIC PLACE!

EXOTIC? WHERE'S THAT?



THE PLACE I HAVE IN MIND IS TAHITI!

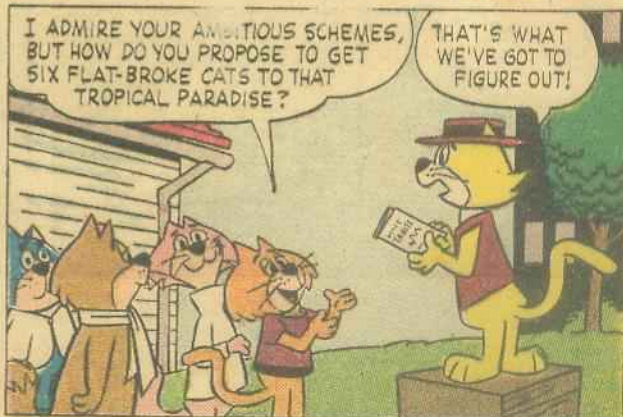
TAHITI?

P.O. BROOKLYN
Enclosed



I ADMIRE YOUR AMBITIOUS SCHEMES, BUT HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO GET SIX FLAT-BROKE CATS TO THAT TROPICAL PARADISE?

THAT'S WHAT WE'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT!

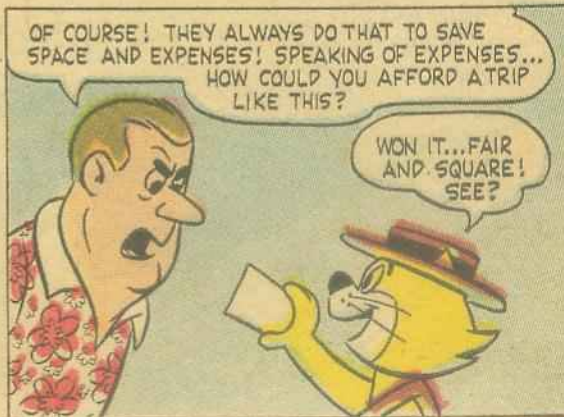


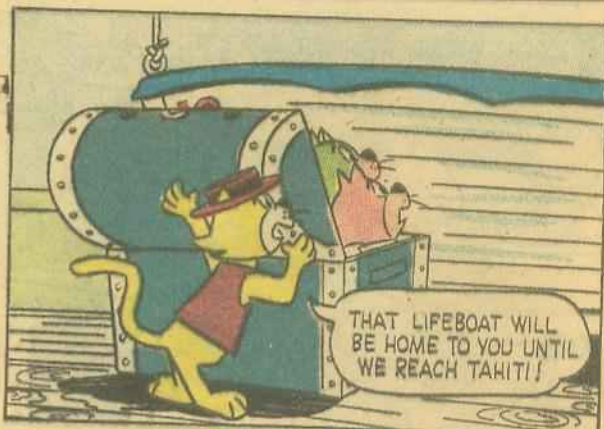
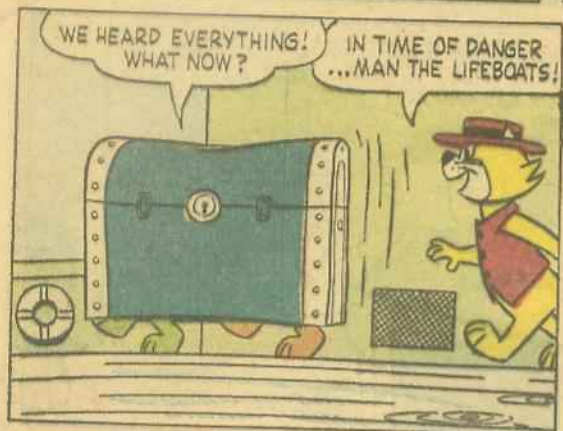




NEXT DAY...







LATER, A STEALTHY FIGURE APPROACHES THE CAT-CRAMMED LIFEBOAT.







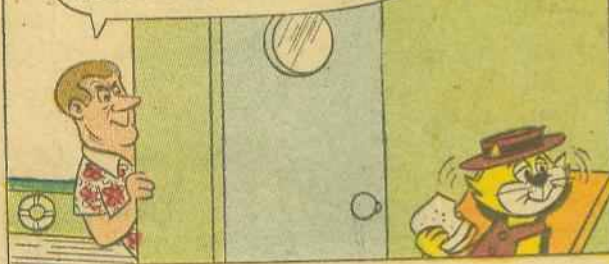
SO, THE CATS ARE HAVING A HIGH TIME . . .



THIS IS THE LIFE, EH? RELAX AND EAT IN THE FRESH AIR ALL DAY, THEN GO BACK TO OUR KING-SIZE SUITE AT NIGHT!

WHILE OFFICER DIBBLE IS FEELING MIGHTY LOW . . .

BAH! IT JUST DOESN'T FIGURE! HOW DID THOSE NO-ACCOUNT CATS BECOME BANK ACCOUNT CATS?



IT JUST GOES TO SHOW YOU, THERE'S NO JUSTICE! THEY PROBABLY WON IT IN A CONTEST OR SOMETHING!

A RADIOGRAM FROM THE MAINLAND FOR YOU, SIR!



IT'S A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF! HE SAYS A BANK ROBBER IS ON BOARD WITH SOME **STOLEN MONEY** AND I MIGHT AS WELL HANDLE THE CASE SINCE I'M ON THE SHIP!



HE EVEN INCLUDED THE SERIAL NUMBERS! NOW I HAVE TO WORK ON MY VACATION! ME WORKING WHILE THOSE CATS ARE HAVING A BALL!



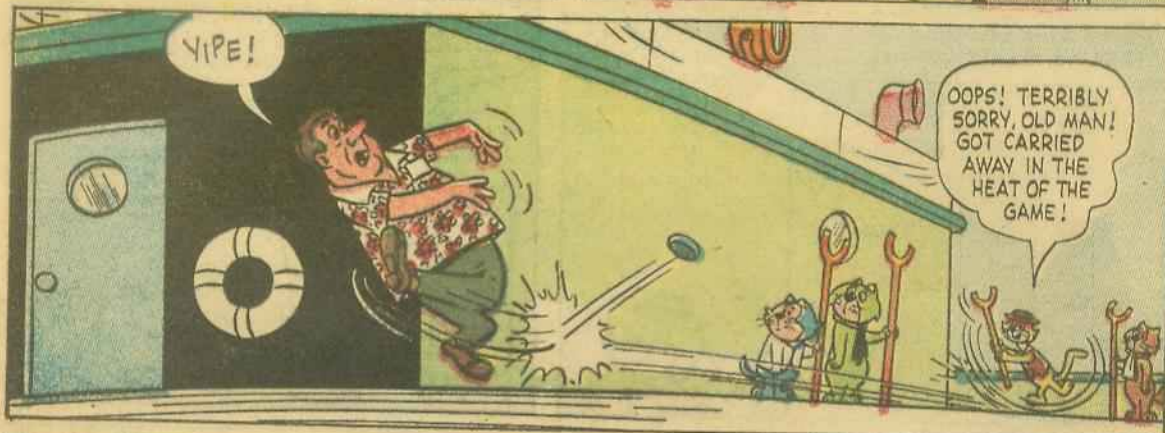
BUT CHOO CHOO ISN'T HAVING A BALL . . .

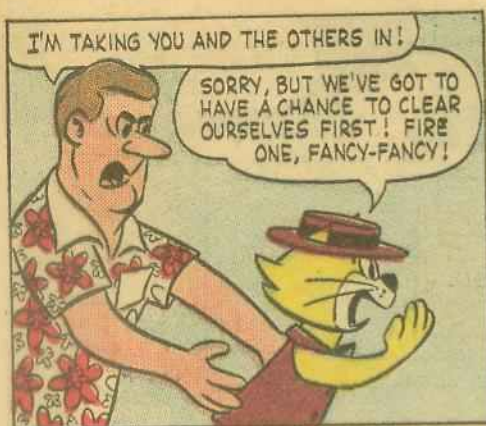
TOP CAT AND THE OTHERS CAN BLOW ALL THAT MONEY, BUT I'M SAVING UP FOR A RAINY DAY!



WE'LL ALL HAVE FISH TO EAT AFTER WE'RE BROKE! AND IF I KNOW THE GROUP, THAT WON'T BE LONG!





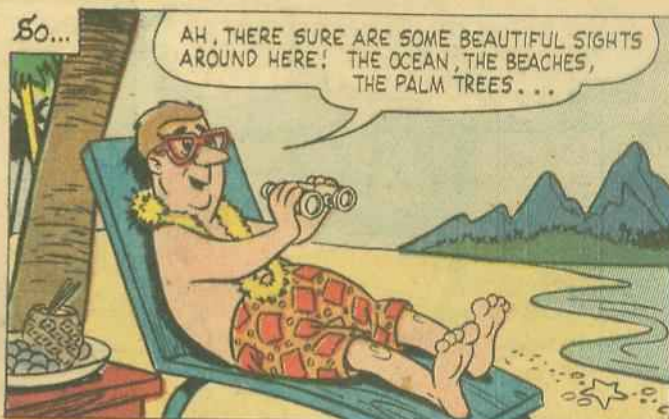






DIBBLE GETS ALL THE FACTS, AND PIECES TOGETHER THE FANTASTIC STORY. . .





DUCK LUCK



"Tum, ta-dum," a wildcat hummed to himself as he crept through the woods to the duck pond. "I'll fool Yakky Doodle today for sure. I've been practicing duck-talk until I sound more like one than he does."

The wildcat concealed himself by the edge of the duck pond.

"Quackety-quack," he called. "I'm a poor lost duck. Will someone help me?"

"Wak!" Yakky called from the center of the pond. "I'll help you out, friend."

The wildcat became anxious to capture Yakky that he slipped into the water. With a cry, he leaped back to dry land.

Catching a glimpse of the wildcat, Yakky quickly sped to the other side of the pond calling, "I'll be right along!"

There, a new danger confronted Yakky. Unknown to either the duckling or the wildcat, a prowling coyote was resting in the tall grass on that side of the pond. As Yakky swam close to shore, the coyote scooped him up with a growl of triumph.

"Wak! This sure is an unlucky day for little ducks," Yakky groaned, as the coyote held him fast.

"But it's a lucky day for me," the coyote grinned. "Although," he added, "I must admit that I would much prefer to have captured that big duck I heard on the other side of the pond. A little piece of fluff like you isn't much of a meal."

"Hmmm," Yakky thought to himself, as he listened to the coyote's comment with interest. "Maybe I can turn my bad luck into good luck and get rid of both of my enemies at the same time."

Squirring around in the coyote's grasp, Yakky pleaded, "Put me down a minute, and

I'll tell you how you can capture that 'big duck,' if you'll promise to let me go."

The coyote stopped at once, his eyes shining with anticipation.

"It's a deal," he growled eagerly.

"Just follow behind me so you won't be seen," Yakky instructed. "We'll creep around the tall grass to the other side of the pond. I'll call to the other 'duck,' and I'll tell him I'm coming over."

"Then," the coyote concluded, "when we get close enough, I'll jump on him! Lead on, ducky, I'm right behind you."

Yakky Doodle waddled through the grass, hoping that the wildcat would not see the coyote creeping along behind him.

"Yoo-hoo, Mr. Big Duck in the bushes," he called. "I'm coming over to see you."

Over in the thick bush, the wildcat giggled with glee.

"He didn't see me, after all!" he tittered. "Boy, is he going to get a surprise?"

Closer and closer Yakky waddled toward the bush. When he was just a few feet away, the wildcat sprang out of the bush. At the same moment, the coyote leaped up from the grass behind the duckling.

For a brief time, fur flew in all directions; but then, since neither one of the animals wanted to tangle with the other, they pelted off in opposite directions.

Yakky had hurried back into his pond as soon as the fur began to fly.

"Wak!" he now laughed with relief. "Mr. Wildcat will think twice before he tries to imitate a big duck again. As a matter of fact, something tells me it'll be a long time before either of those characters come around my duck pond again!"

AUGIE DOGGIE

HERO-TYPE HOUND







SEVERAL MINUTES LATER...



TOP CAT MAN'S BEST ENEMY





WE'LL DIVIDE UP AND ALL MEET
BACK HERE IN THE ALLEY WHEN
WE'VE DONE OUR GOOD DEEDS!



WHAT SHALL WE DO, T.C.?
HELP A LITTLE OLD LADY
ACROSS THE STREET?

NAAAAW!
SOMETHING LIKE
HELPING A
LADY FIX A
FLAT
TIRE!



TOP CAT, MAN AND
WOMAN'S BEST
FRIEND, AT YOUR
SERVICE!

SPLENDID! I NEED SOME
HELP BLOWING UP MY TIRE!



HEH, HEH! THIS IS A SNAP! GIVING
ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION TO
ARTIFICIAL RUBBER!

NATURALLY!



DEAR ME! I
THINK THAT'S
ENOUGH!

TUT, TUT! LET ME HANDLE IT! IT
PROBABLY WENT FLAT IN THE
FIRST PLACE BECAUSE IT DIDN'T
HAVE ENOUGH AIR IN IT!



GEE, T.C., IT LOOKS LIKE WE
WOUND UP HELPING A LADY
ACROSS THE STREET
AFTER ALL!

(ULP!) SHE LOOKS PRETTY *WOUND-UP*,
TOO! AND IF WE DON'T SCRAM, WE'LL
WIND UP IN THE HOSPITAL!

A JIFFY LATER...



SHORTLY... BOY! WON'T OFFICER DIBBLE BE SURPRISED WHEN HE SEES THIS? HE SURE WILL!





TOP CAT MEETING HIS MATCH

IN THE BASEMENT OF SHULTZ'S DELICATESSEN...

THE MEETING WILL PLEASE COME TO ORDER! AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY FOR OUR GROUP'S ANNUAL SELECTION OF TOP CAT!

WHY WASTE TIME, T.C.? YOU KNOW WE ALL WANT YOU TO CONTINUE AS TOP CAT!



TOP CAT FOR TOP CAT!

THANK YOU, GENTLEMEN! I'M TOUCHED BY THIS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE!



I HEREBY MAKE IT OFFICIAL! I WILL CONTINUE ON AS...

HOLD IT! NOT SO FAST!



YIPE! A LION!

RIGHT! AND I'M HERE TO APPLY FOR THE JOB OF TOP CAT!



YOU? B-BUT THAT'S MY JOB!

IT'S A FREE COUNTRY, ISN'T IT? I CAN APPLY FOR THE JOB IF I WANT TO!







TWENTY-TWO HAMBURGERS, FOURTEEN HAM ON RYES, EIGHT MALTS, AND EIGHT PIES LATER...



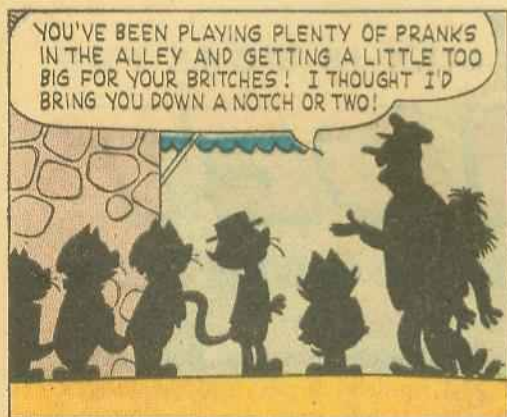
SHORTLY...

YOU MAY HAVE BEATEN ME AT EATING, BUT YOU'VE MET YOUR MATCH AT MOOCHING! WATCH ME GET A DIME FROM J.B. SKINFLINT, THE BIGGEST MISER IN TOWN!

I'M WATCHING!









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TOP CAT

THE OLD BALL GAME

COME ON, TOP CAT! JOIN US
FOR A GAME OF
BASEBALL!

WAIT A MINUTE,
FELLAS!

I'M SICK OF BEING CHASED BY OFFICER
DIBBLE FOR BREAKING WINDOWS WHEN
WE PLAY! LET'S GO SOMEPLACE WITH
LESS GLASS AND MORE GRASS!

GOOD IDEA!

I KNOW A
NICE SPOT!

AH, THIS IS MORE LIKE IT! WE WON'T
BREAK ANY GLASS AROUND HERE!

UH-OH!

SOCK!

CRA-
ASH!

CHEE! THAT OFFICER
DIBBLE SURE GETS
AROUND!